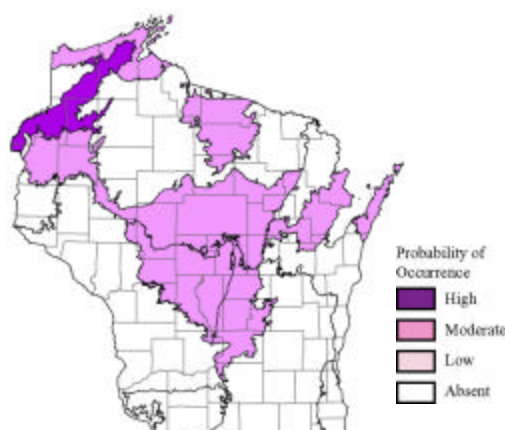


Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	3
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	5
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.9
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Hills	Open bog
Central Sand Plains	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Open bog
Forest Transition	Northern sedge meadow
Forest Transition	Open bog
Northern Highland	Northern sedge meadow
Northern Highland	Open bog
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Open bog
Superior Coastal Plain	Northern sedge meadow
Superior Coastal Plain	Open bog
Superior Coastal Plain	Shore fen

Threats and Issues

- Drainage or flooding (altered hydrology) of large northern sedge meadows preferred by this species. Conversion of drained sedge meadows to other land uses.
- Succession of preferred wetland habitats to shrub carr, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Lack of population size and distribution data for this secretive species.
- Habitat fragmentation may also be an issue for this species.
- Yellow Rails do not tolerate grazing.
- Invasion by exotic species such as reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, etc., can degrade habitat quality.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Surveys of sedge meadow habitat for Yellow Rail are needed to monitor this species and find additional breeding sites.
- Conduct research on site fidelity and methods of habitat maintenance that will promote breeding and population stability.
- Educate public on the value of large sedge meadows.
- Work to preserve and maintain condition of large expanses of northern sedge meadows, including allowing the natural fluctuation of water levels in sedge meadow habitat, burning to control woody shrubs and prevent their encroachment, and preserving hummocky areas within wetlands.